* Revitalization of agricultural research to ensure full exploitation of scientific advances for improving productivity according to agro-climatic conditions.

* Revitalization of Agricultural extension system through Krishi Vikas Kendras in each district and making extension system more farmer-friendly by way of autonomous institutional arrangements for technological dissemination through "Agricultural Technology Management "Agency" (ATMA) at district level.

* The newly approved National Rainfed Area Authority is expected to deal with the problems faced by rainfed areas.

* National Horticulture Mission is under implementation to boost area and production of horticulture crops through establishing backward and forward linkages.

Regional Cancer Institute status to Mahaveer Cancer Institute, Patna

†*78. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee constituted by Government in the year 2002 had recommended for according Regional Cancer Institute status to the Mahaveer Cancer Institute, Patna;

(b) if so, the reasons for not according Regional Cancer Institute status to the said institute, so far;

(c) whether Government propose to accord status of Regional Cancer Institute to the said institute; and

(d) if so, the details of action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, a Committee was constituted in 2001 to assess the Cancer treatment facilities at Mahaveer Cancer Institute, Patna (Bihar), which inspected the institute on 17.5.01 and *inter-alia* recommended that the institute could be considered for granting Regional Cancer Centre

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(RCC) status in relaxation of Government policy of recognizing only one RCC in each State under National Cancer Control Programme. Since Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, was already recognized as Regional Cancer Centre for Bihar and that the issue of recognizing second RCC in a State was under scrutiny of Supreme Court in a similar case where the Government has taken a clear stand that only one institute can be recognized in a State and hence subjudice, it was considered appropriate to await the decision of the Supreme Court.

The National Cancer Control Programme was revised during the 10th Plan period and under the revised guidelines, only Government institutions are eligible to be recognized as New Regional Cancer Centres and accordingly the institute can not be recognized as additional RCC for the State of Bihar.

Suicides by farmers of A.P.

*79. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 110 farmers have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh during the last three months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Prime Minister's special relief for the farmers to the tune of Rs. 37,500 crores have not been utilized and distributed to the debt-hit farmers; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government to take remedial steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, 46 farmers have committed suicide during the period October 2006 to January 2007. Broadly, the following are the causes for suicide by farmers:

* Crop failure

* Indebtedness due to high rate of interest on loans

* Drought

* Social and economic insecurity